Strategy for exports

66. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been formulating a strategy for exports to achieve the targets of foreign trade;

-(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) In the current year (1995-96), the export target has been indicated at a 20% growth in $ terms. However, export promotion as a continuous process. Steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and other concerned institutions. The Government is striving to make the environment of policy and procedures more export-friendly. Among the measures taken for export promotion mention may be made about simplification of Export-Import Policy and Procedures increasing export production, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality improvement and technological upgradation, improvement in infrastructure and actively involving State Governments in export promotion. In the current year an Annual Action Plan has been formulated which, *inter-alia,* covers commodity-specific and country-specific measures for export promotion. Imports are made as per requirements. As such, no targets are set..

(c) Does not arise.

Foodgrain Requirement

67. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's assessment about the requirement and production of foodgrains this year in the country in view of the increasing population;

(b) what will be the requirement of the foodgrains in the country by 2000 A.D. and in what manner Government propose to meet the shortage of foodgrains in view of the production capacity of the country; and

(c) whether Government will import foodgrains or would make the cultivable land more fertile so that the production capacity could be increased?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The demand/ requirement of foodgrains at a given point of time depends upon a number of variable factors such as population characteristics, production, availability, income distribution, price behaviour, consumer habits availability of substitutes and other related matters. Hence it is difficult to indicate the exact assessment of the requirement of foodgrains in the country.

However, the demand for foodgrains by the year 2000. A.D. is likely to increase at the rate of 2.5—2.7 per cent per annum depending upon the rate of increase in population and per capita income. Taking into consideration the present level of requirements and likely increase in demand, the domestic requirement of total foodgrains by the year 2000 A.D. is likely to be in the range of 205 to 208 million tonnes. In order to meet the increase in demand of foodgrains in future, Government is implementing various Crop production Oriented Programmes to increase production and productivity of foodgrains in the country. All cereals based crop production schemes have been recently modified to make it cropping system based approach to increase the productivity of all crops.

Imports and Exports during 1994-95 and 1995-96

68. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of imports, in rupees as well as in dollars, during the first six months of 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively;

(b) the value of exports in rupee and dollar terms, during the same periods;

(c) the factors underlying the spurt in imports in the current financial year; and

(d) the measures Government is contemplating to narrow the emerging trade deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The value of imports and exports, in rupee and dollar terms, during the first six months (April—September) of 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under:—

	(Rupee: In crores) 1994-95		(Dollar: In million) 1995-96	
	Dollar	Rupee	Dollar	Rupee
Import	12851	40315	17065	54145
Export	11621	36455	14685	46591

(c) The increased level of deficit could be attributed to an increase in both oil and non-oil imports, the latter comprising raw materials, intermediates, capital goods and export-linked imports; the higher level of non-oil imports is due to a higher industrial growth and an accelerated export performance.

(d) The key to narrowing the trade deficit lies in export growth. Recognising this, the Government have taken a number of steps to encourage and maintain a strong export growth. India's trade policy was liberalised in July, 1991 to respond to the opportunities and challenges posed by the domestic and interriational developments. The trade policy is aimed at creating a freer environment for trade, removing procedural irritants through simplification and streamlining of procedures, increasing export production, improving efficiency and sharpening competitive edge, facilitating input availability focussing on quality and technological upgradation besides introducing and strengthening schemes for export promotion. Efforts have been made to provide cheaper export credit and provide tax exemption on export profits. Export promotion is a continueous process and steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and concerned institutions.

भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा गेहूं और चावल की आर्थिक लागत

69. **श्री राम जेठमलानी** :

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :

क्या **खाद्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा गेहूं व चावल की आर्थिक लागत गत वर्षो के दौरान निरंतर बढ़ी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1991-92 में और वर्ष 1994-95 के अंत में गेहूं और चावल की लागतें कितनी-कितनी थीं;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि भारतीय खाद्य निगम से सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के लिए गत कुछ वर्षो में खाद्यान्नों की उठाई जाने वाली यात्रा में भी निरंतर कमी आ रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1991-92 और 1994-95 के दौरान गेहूं व चावल की कितनी-कितनी मात्रा उठायी गयी?

खाद्य मंत्री (श्री अजित सिंह) : (क) और (ख) जी, हां । पिछले कुछ वर्षो में गेहूं और चावल की आर्थिक लागत में वृद्धि हुई है जैसा कि भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा सूचित किए गए निम्नलिखित आंकड़ों से स्पष्ट है ।

गेहूं और चावल की आर्थिक लागत

(रुपए प्रति क्विंटल)

	1991-92	1994-95
गेहूं :	390.79	551.17
चावल:	497.04	694.71